

Message Text

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15

ACTION MC-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 PM-04 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

DODE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 /036 W

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R 040733Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7182

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, RP

SUBJECT: LAWS CONCERNING FIREARMS IMPORTATION

REF: STATE 177789; STATE 205916

1. CONTROL OF RAMPANT MINDLESS VIOLENCE, TO WHICH WIDESPREAD POSSESSION FIREARMS CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY, WAS HIGH PRIORITY OBJECTIVE OF MARCOS'S MARTIAL LAW REGIME. THEREFORE, SHORTLY AFTER DECLARATION MARTIAL LAW, SEPTEMBER 21, 1972, SERIES PRESIDENTIAL DECREES AND ORDERS ISSUED TO:
-COLLECT ALL WEAPONS IN PRIVATE HANDS (530,000 WERE REPORTEDLY GATHERED UP).
- REORGANIZE AND CENTRALIZE CHAOTIC AND OVERLAPPING GUN CONTROL LAWS
- RESTRICT POSSESSION BASICALLY TO POLICE, MILITARY AND A VERY FEW SPORTSMEN WHO ARE ALLOWED TO HAVE ONE LOW-POWERED RIFLE CALIBER .22 OR SHOTGUN NOT HEAVIER THAN 12 GAUGE OR ONE PISTOL NOT HIGHER THAN CALIBER .38.

2. SITUATION HAS NOT CHANGED IN LAST THREE YEARS. PHILIPPINE CONSTABULARY'S FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES UNIT (PCFEU) HAS COMPLETE AUTHORITY TO LICENSE, CONFISCATE, CHARGE WITH ILLEGAL POSSESSION, OR OTHERWISE INSURE GENERAL DISARMING OF POPULATION.

3. PCFEU ALSO CONTROLS IMPORTATION FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION.
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CENTRAL BANK WILL ALLOW OPENING LETTERS OF CREDIT ONLY OPON

PRESENTATION AUTHORIZATION FROM PCFEU, WHICH IN PRACTICE
LIMITED TO LICENSED SUPPLIERS OF FIREARMS TO ARMED FORCES
OR TO SMALL NUMBER INFUENTIAL SPORTSMEN OR SENIOR MEMBERS
OF GOVERNMENT.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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